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METHOD, COMPUTER PROGRAM AND OPEN- AND/OR CLOSED-LOOP CONTROL
UNIT FOR OPERATING AN ACTUATOR HAVING A CAPACITATIVE ELEMENT,
AND INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for operating an
actuator having a capacitative element, an ohmic resistance
10 being connected in parallel with the capacitative element and
the value of the ohmic resistance being sensed at specific
points in time.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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A method is referred to in Published Patent Application No. DE
199 58 406 A1, which describes a piezoactuator that is used,
for example, in a fuel injector. The piezoactuator behaves
similarly to a capacitative element in electrical terms, and
20 is therefore itself often referred to as a capacitative
element. The capacitative element is longer or shorter
depending on its charge state. The change in length of the
capacitative element is transferred to a valve element of the
fuel injector.

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In the event of an interruption in activation of the
capacitative element, or a malfunction of one of the
components, it may happen that the capacitative positioner
remains continuously in one specific position because it can
30 no longer be discharged. In a context of use in a fuel
injector, the result of this may be, for example, that the.